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FM AIT TAIPEI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8070
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 7805
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 9309
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 9562
RUEHCN/AMCONSUL CHENGDU 2374
RUEHGZ/AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU 0917
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 9068
RUEHGH/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI 1733
RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG 6344
RHMFISS/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC
RHMFISS/HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 000170

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SUBJECT: AIT-TECRO EXTRADITION RELATIONSHIP: SOMETHING FOR
THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION

REF: SECSTATE 5865

Classified By: AIT Director Stephen M. Young, Reason(s): 1.4 (B/D).

¶1. (C) AIT delivered to MOFA North American Affairs Deputy Director-General Christina Hsueh on January 24 reftel talking points on a possible extradition relationship between AIT and TECRO. AIT stressed that the USG was not proposing negotiations, only seeking to gauge Taiwan's interest and its willingness to pursue legislation necessary for an extradition agreement.

¶2. (C) D/G Hsueh responded that Taiwan was "definitely interested" in an extradition agreement with the U.S., the lack of which, Hsieh remarked, had been the major stumbling block to the return of wanted fugitive Rebar tycoon Wang You-theng. She promised to convey our inquiry to the Executive Yuan (EY) as soon as possible, but explained that the January 23 resignation of Premier Chang Chun-hsiung and his entire cabinet would delay EY response and action. Taiwan's newly elected Legislative Yuan (LY) will not be sworn in until February 1, Hsieh added, and the LY would probably not begin legislative work in earnest before the presidential election in March.

¶3. (C) Comment: On January 28, President Chen rejected the resignation of Chang and his cabinet. The presidential office insists the current cabinet remains "active." Nonetheless, Taiwan's presidential election will be March 22, and the current cabinet will be dissolved after the May 20 inauguration of Taiwan's next president. In the meantime, AIT will continue to monitor this issue, and seek further input regarding a possible extradition agreement and authorizing legislation from law enforcement and other government agencies. End Comment.

YOUNG